

I claim:

1 1. A method for the transmission of image data from a sender
2 to a recipient, comprising the steps of
3 inserting at the location of the sender into a data
4 transmission including an image format portion data identifying the
5 address of the intended recipient of the image-format portion of
6 the transmission and message tracking data;
7 transmitting the data transmission over a transmission
8 system from the sender's location to an intermediate point of
9 presence facility; and
10 receiving the data transmission by the point of presence
11 facility and re-transmitting the data comprising the image portion
12 to the identified address of the recipient.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further including the step of
2 inserting into the data transmission at the location of the sender
3 message tracking data.

1 3. The method of claim 2 further including the step of
2 processing the message tracking data by the point of presence
3 facility.

1 4. The method of claim 3 including the further step of
2 stripping the message tracking data from the data transmission at
3 the point of presence facility before retransmission.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:
2 inserting at the location of the sender into the data
3 transmission data identifying an address of the sender; and
4 sending a confirmation message to the sender's address
5 by the point of presence facility after re-transmitting the data
6 comprising the image portion to the recipient's identified address.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the address of the
2 recipient is an e-mail address and the step of re-transmitting the
3 data includes forwarding the data in the form of an e-mail
4 attachment to the recipient's e-mail address.

1 7. The method of claim 4, wherein the address of the
2 recipient is an e-mail address and the step of re-transmitting the
3 data includes forwarding the data in the form of an e-mail
4 attachment to the recipient's e-mail address.

1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the address of the sender
2 is an e-mail address and the step of sending a confirmation message
3 includes forwarding an e-mail message to the sender's e-mail
4 address.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:
2 generating a confirmation message by the point of presence
3 facility after re-transmitting the data comprising the image

4 portion to the recipient's identified address; and
5 allowing the sender access to the confirmation message.

1 10. A method for the transmission of image data from a sender
2 to a recipient, comprising the steps of
3 inserting at the location of the sender into a data
4 transmission including a portion intended to be received by the
5 recipient data identifying the address of the intended recipient
6 of the portion and message tracking data;
7 transmitting the data transmission from the sender's
8 location to an intermediate point of presence facility; and
9 receiving the data transmission by the point of presence
10 facility, converting the portion to a facsimile-format image, and
11 re-transmitting the intended portion to the identified address of
12 the recipient.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the identified
2 address of the recipient is a telephone number associated with a
3 facsimile reception apparatus and said re-transmission includes a
4 portion over a telephone line linked to the facsimile reception
5 apparatus.

1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein the transmission from
2 the sender to the point of presence facility is in the form of an
3 e-mail transmission.

1 13. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of
2 transmitting the data transmission over a telephone system from the
3 sender's location to an intermediate point of presence facility
4 include converting the image data to facsimile format and
5 transmitting the image data in the facsimile format.